

Hassan II offers pardon to opponent

RABAT (R) — One of the Moroccan monarchy's fiercest opponents, sentenced to death four times for plotting against the throne, has been offered a pardon by King Hassan, political party sources said on Wednesday. The "Fath" (racer) Mohammad Basri, a founder of the Moroccan resistance movement before independence in 1956, was first condemned to death in 1963 for plotting against the monarchy but reprieved by the king two years later. He died in 1966 and has lived in voluntary exile ever since, mainly in France. He was sentenced to death again in his absence in 1971, 1972 and 1973 for his alleged part in plots against the throne. Mr. Basri, who is in his early sixties, received the offer of a royal pardon and an invitation to return to Morocco at two meetings in Paris with Interior Minister Dries Basri (no relation) in February and May, party sources said. The sources said Mr. Basri had indicated his willingness to return but had expressed the wish that the king would also grant an amnesty at the same time to all political prisoners in Morocco. It is not yet known whether the king has agreed to a general amnesty for political prisoners.

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جورنال تايمز يومي مختبرة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية الراية**'Iran deal for nothing but hostages'**

WASHINGTON (R) — The CIA chief counsel who helped throw a cloak of mystery around the U.S. sale of arms to Iran said Wednesday it was an arms-for-hostages deal from the start. Stanley Sporkin, former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) general counsel and now a federal judge, told congressional hearings on the Iran-contra scandal that the swap was the basic reason for the deal from the outset. President Reagan has insisted he approved the deal primarily to establish a new strategic relationship with so-called moderate elements in Tehran. He conceded later it degenerated into ransom for five Americans held by pro-Iranian elements in Lebanon. "We did not, repeat, did not trade weapons or anything else for hostages, nor will we," Mr. Reagan flatly declared in an address to the nation after the secret operation came to light last November. But Mr. Sporkin testified that a year earlier, on Nov. 25, 1985, he prepared a draft "finding" for Mr. Reagan to sign that would provide retroactive authority for the CIA to participate in the arms shipments to Iran. It simply stated the reason was "Iran is taking steps to facilitate the release of Americans held hostage."

Reagan reports Bonn's assurance over Hamadei

WASHINGTON (R) — President Ronald Reagan said Wednesday he had been assured by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl that accused hijacker Mohammad Hamadei will be tried for the murder of an American sailor and not granted clemency if convicted, the White House announced. Mr. Reagan's spokesman Marlin Fitzwater gave details of the assurances after West Germany announced it had formally rejected U.S. requests for the extradition of Mr. Hamadei (see page 2), who is accused of killing U.S. navy diver Robert Stethem during the seizure of Trans World Airlines (TWA) Flight 847 in June 1985.

Peres in Paris

PARIS (AP) — Shimon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister, arrived Wednesday in Paris for the latest in a round of talks with European leaders on calls for an international Middle East peace conference. Mr. Peres, who arrived from London, had a working lunch with his French counterpart, Jean-Bernard Raimond, with whom he met three weeks ago in Israel. Mr. Peres was to meet later Wednesday with French President Francois Mitterrand. On Thursday, Mr. Peres was to meet with Premier Jacques Chirac, along with former Premier Raymond Barre, and Lionel Jospin, first secretary of the Socialist Party. Mr. Peres was to go on to Bonn on Monday.

Israel delays Nakash extradition

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli supreme court judge on Wednesday delayed the extradition to France of a Jewish immigrant convicted of murdering an Arab pendant his appeal next week. Lawyers for William Nakash submitted the appeal to the supreme court Monday after Justice Minister Avraham Sharir decided to extradite the 24-year-old French Jew. But Judge Menachem Elon barred the justice ministry and prison authorities from preparing the extradition until the appeal is heard by a three-judge panel next Thursday.

Lebanese officer killed in Tyre

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Gunmen on Wednesday killed a Lebanese army intelligence officer who was a liaison officer with U.N. peacekeepers in South Lebanon, police said. They said the attackers ambushed Captain Kazem Darwish, head of army intelligence in the Tyre area, as he drove to Tyre barracks. Capt. Darwish played an important liaison role last year when French troops in the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon came under attack by Shiite militants.

Swiss offer to host Mideast conference

BERN (AP) — Neutral Switzerland stands ready to have Geneva host a future international peace conference on the Middle East, the government said Wednesday. Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert reaffirmed Switzerland's offer in recent visits to Middle East countries, the ruling Federal Council said in response to a question from parliament.

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King visits Damascus for talks with Assad

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Wednesday paid a working visit to Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on topics believed related to efforts for Middle East peace and settling Iraqi-Syrian differences.

The King and President Assad held two rounds of closed meetings in addition to expanded talks attended by senior officials from both sides. The King is accompanied on the visit by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh.

No details were available of the two leaders' talks, but news agencies speculated that the King was pursuing his efforts to settle differences between President Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The King, on his seventh visit to Damascus since 1985, is believed to follow up talks with President Assad last month which centred on Arab solidarity and the prospects for an international peace conference on the Middle

East. The King has had similar discussions with President Hussein of Iraq as part of his endeavours to bring the Syrian and Iraqi leaders together ahead of a projected Arab summit.

Jordan and Saudi Arabia have jointly led Arab efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria, ruled by rival factions of the Baath Socialist Party.

Diplomats quoted by Reuters said the King would probably also exchange views with President Assad ahead of the monarch's expected visit to London next month to seek European support for the proposed international conference on Middle East peace.

Both Syria and Jordan have agreed to the conference, to be

attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties to the Middle East conflict.

King Hussein's visit comes two weeks after Syrian Premier Abdul Raouf Al Kasm visited Jordan to discuss economic and political affairs.

The King was received upon arrival at Damascus airport on Wednesday by President Assad, Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Vice-President Mohamad Zuhair Mashraqah, Prime Minister Kasm and cabinet members and Jordan's Ambassador in Damascus Ali Khreis.

In a separate meeting, Mr. Rifai and Dr. Kasm discussed bilateral cooperation and ways to further strengthen relations between the two countries, Petra said. The meeting, held at the Syrian Prime Ministry, was attended by Mr. Qasem and Mr. Abu Odeh, Petra added.

The King and the delegation accompanying him were guests of honour at a banquet hosted by President Assad. It was attended by senior Syrian officials.

The duration of the King's visit to Damascus was not known.



His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad and senior officials see off His Majesty King Hussein upon his departure for a short visit to Damascus on Wednesday (Petra photo)



Kidnappers free Osseiran; Syria pursues push for Glass' release

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria will continue to press for the release of U.S. hostage Charles Glass, who failed to appear when two of his fellow Lebanese captives were freed in southern Lebanon early Wednesday, a senior Syrian official said.

"Syria is exercising military and administrative pressures on all levels for this purpose," the highly-placed official told reporters in the Syrian capital. He asked not to be named.

Earlier, in South Lebanon, the exhausted son of Lebanon's defense minister swam to freedom after a week-long kidnap ordeal he suffered to protect the 36-year-old American newsman from California.

Ali Osseiran, dressed in navy blue trousers and a dark blue shirt, appeared briefly on the

balcony of the family home in the seaside town of Rmeileh, 30 kilometres south of Beirut.

Asked where Mr. Glass was, the 40-year-old engineer paused, then replied sadly, "I don't know."

A bodyguard attached to the Osseiran family told AP that Ali Osseiran had dinner with Mr. Glass on Tuesday night, but would not give further details.

The younger Osseiran and his driver Suleiman Salman were freed in the early morning. A Syrian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they were let go blindfolded on the coastal highway near the southern port city of Sidon.

Defense Minister Adel Osseiran said Mr. Glass was still alive and efforts to free him would continue.

Ali Osseiran, dressed in navy blue trousers and a dark blue shirt, appeared briefly on the

coastal highway near the southern port city of Sidon.

The kidnappers who released Ali Osseiran and his police driver defied intense Syrian pressure to release Mr. Glass as well. All three men were seized in west Beirut on June 17.

Two family sources said Mr. Osseiran was freed around dawn from a small boat, off the Lebanese coast near Sidon. But a Syrian official quoted by AP said they were let go blindfolded on the coastal highway.

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Home news**Israelis tighten rules for children crossing bridges**

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian government Wednesday issued an appeal to all nations to help persuade the Israeli authorities to desist from further complicating matters for the Palestinian people visiting their relatives or returning to their homes in the occupied territories.

A statement issued by the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs said that Israel was resorting to practices that contradict international conventions and principles.

The Israelis are requesting that children above five years of age should acquire permits or passports separate from those of their parents who are residents of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, if those children were born outside the occupied territories, and have not yet been included in the parents' documents, the statement said.

Children under five years of age born outside the occupied territories and not registered in the documents of the parents should, according to Israeli measures, bring with them birth certificates and also should be included in the parents' passports before they can be allowed to enter, the statement added.

The statement said that children under five years old were in the previous years permitted to enter provided they only held birth certificates. This measure is seen by the Jordanian government as another attempt for further complicating matters for Arab visitors and adding to the sufferings of the Palestinian people, the statement said.

The statement also urged all travellers to try and bring all the required documents so as to avoid any inconvenience.

NEWS IN BRIEF**Jordan to study aid for Sudan**

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation is going to Sudan next month in order to study agricultural projects in which Jordan can participate. The delegation will be led by Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi who is chairman of a national committee for the support of the Sudanese people, who have been facing drought and famine. Dr. Abbadi said that the delegation will spend 10 days in Sudan to assess areas where help can be provided.

Fayez receives African parliament report

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al Fayez has received a report on the outcome of the African Parliamentary Union meeting which was held between April 13 and 17. The report outlined the economic subjects of concern to Africa that were discussed at the meeting and recommendations to various member countries on ways of easing economic difficulties through various forms of cooperation. The report, sent to Mr. Fayez in his capacity as current chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, speaks also of efforts being made by African states to ensure food security and promote agricultural production and combat diseases that affect crops.

Iraqi official receives new ambassador

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz received Wednesday newly appointed Jordanian ambassador to Iraq, Helmi Al Lawzi, and received a copy of his credentials. Mr. Aziz praised the existing brotherly links between Jordan and Iraq. Mr. Al Lawzi conveyed to Mr. Aziz the greetings and best wishes of Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

Ministry to promote primary health care

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry is preparing to carry out an intensive awareness programme in the Kingdom on primary health care, according to Dr. Mohammad Sharif, director of health education at the Ministry of Health. He said that the health centres in different governorates will contribute to his programme by providing education on family and children care, medical care for pregnant women and advice on nutrition. He said that the programme will be put into effect early next month.

7 killed in week's road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of seven people were killed and 180 others injured as a result of 218 road accidents in the Kingdom over the past week. A statement by the Public Security Department said that 137 of these accidents occurred in the Amman region and the rest were in Zarqa, Balqa, Irbid, Karak, Ma'an, Aqaba, Badia, Mafraq and Tafieh.

Arabs stage massive strike

(Continued from page 1)
If today's protest does not get action from the government there will be more strikes," he said.

In a radio interview, minister without portfolio Mosha Arens acknowledged inequalities but conceded that the strike was politically motivated.

Mr. Muallif responded: "The communists do have a place on the strike committee together with representatives of a number of other political groups including the Israel Labour Party. The decision was agreed unanimously."

"Insofar as the problems facing Israeli Arabs are political, then you can say our struggle is political, but not partisan. The Arab people simply want their rights," he said.

Mayor Hashem Mahamid of the town of Umm Al Fahoum said the day-long strike was to demand more government spending on schools, health and other services in Arab villages.

"We are demanding 1,500 more classrooms, changes in the educational system... and changes in budgets to Arab cities," Mr. Mahamid told Israeli army radio.

Iraqis hit Turkish ship in Gulf

(Continued from page 1)
The military spokesman in Baghdad also said Iraqi warplanes flew 22 combat missions against Iranian ground targets along the front during Wednesday.

The spokesman reported only "minor skirmishes" against Iranian fighters in Iraqi Kurdistan, where Tehran claims it has been winning victories in a five-day-old offensive.

"Iran's claim about alleged fighting in the area is an attempt to cover up the heavy losses its forces sustained," an Iraqi spokesman said earlier in a Baghdad Radio broadcast.

"We have our own information that Iraq carried out the attack," Ba'th said.



Her Majesty Queen Noor chairs a meeting Wednesday of the Higher National Committee set up to prepare for the Jerash Festival. The committee endorsed final arrangements for the festival, including the programme of activities and the opening ceremony (Petra photo)

Queen chairs meeting endorsing programme for Jerash Festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — Final arrangements for the sixth Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts were endorsed Wednesday by the festival's Higher National Committee (HNC), meeting under the chairmanship of Her Majesty Queen Noor.

At the meeting, held at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), the committee members approved the programme for the festival, and finalised arrangements for the opening, which will take place on July 8.

A NHF press release said that the opening show will include performances by the Jordanian Armed Forces Band, varieties of folk art presented by a number of Jordanian troupes, and the traditional torch-lighting ceremony which marks the official opening of the 23-day annual event.

Also performing on the first night will be several dance and music troupes from various countries. There will be a variety of children's programmes, the press release said.

According to Mrs. Touja Faisal, director of the cultural programmes at NHF which is organising the festival, young groups of musicians aged 16-17

will be performing. She said that contacts were made with groups from Egypt, Tunisia, the United States, the United Kingdom, West Germany, France and Austria to take part in the festival, in addition to musical groups from Jordan.

To a related development, Tunisia Wednesday announced that it will join the various nations represented at the Jerash Festival by providing two national folk troupes.

A statement by the Ministry of Culture in Tunis said that the festival will be a good opportunity for the two troupes to learn about other Arab and foreign traditions and art.

On Saturday, Under Secretary of the Ministry of Information Michael Hamarneh will hold a press conference at which he will present details about the Jerash festival.

In addition to musical groups from Jordan.

He said that UNESCO had contributed towards the implementation of more than 50 educational programmes in the Arab region at the cost of \$40 million.

The papers also dwelt on the planning of educational policies in the Arab World.

Dr. Akhras referred to education in the occupied Arab territories and said that UNESCO had been active in promoting education in general and vocational training in particular and also in assisting to West Bank universities in the form of equipment, scholarships and audio-visual aids.

Dr. Abdul Wahed Yousef from the UNESCO regional office in Amman presented a working paper outlining the organisation's programmes for eradicating illiteracy by the year 2,000.

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In addition to musical groups from Jordan.

He said that UNESCO had contributed towards the implementation of more than 50 educational programmes in the Arab region at the cost of \$40 million.

The papers also dwelt on the planning of educational policies in the Arab World.

Dr. Akhras referred to education in the occupied Arab territories and said that UNESCO had been active in promoting education in general and vocational training in particular and also in assisting to

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Raising the temperature

AS Washington spokesmen repeat that an attack on Iran's Silkworm missiles is under consideration, the United States is consciously raising the temperature in the Gulf. It cannot be said to be intensifying a conflict which has already seen such appalling slaughter, but it has added a new dimension by making big power involvement and the internationalisation of the war a real and immediate possibility.

It makes little difference that the signals from Washington are confused and contradictory. Attacking the missile sites is only one of several options under consideration and in any case depends upon the missiles being deployed. But Senators Warner and Glenn have made clear their belief that a pre-emptive strike is likely to be necessary as soon as the missiles are deployed in a way that could block the Straits of Hormuz. The chairman of the U.S. chiefs of staff, Admiral Crowe, on the other hand, has said he thinks that the U.S. navy escorting Kuwaiti tankers under the U.S. flag should be sufficient protection. He believes it would not be a high risk operation and although the U.S. cannot rule out Iran escalating the war, he maintains Iran has been "even more cautious than previously" since the Iraqi Exocet attack on the U.S. ship.

Meanwhile, President Reagan, with his description of Iran as "barbaric," has abandoned any pretence of U.S. neutrality in the war. Clearly a Libyan-style operation against Iran is something that he would consider and, as before, once the threat has been made, it is difficult for the U.S. not to take some positive action. It is no wonder that many congressmen, Republican as well as Democrat, have become deeply alarmed at the trend.

It is hardly surprising that the other Gulf states are uncertain in their response to an American policy which is so unclear. Superficially, Kuwait has most reason to be satisfied with the trend. By threatening to turn to the USSR — an option which it is still maintaining — it has elicited the American offer to give 11 of its tankers the protection of the U.S. flag. But even Kuwait must fear the possibility of a pre-emptive strike against Iran. Other GCC members are probably agitated. Since it is difficult and dangerous to manoeuvre aircraft carriers in the Gulf, an anti-missile strike would have to be launched from land bases. It is most unlikely that Saudi Arabia or Oman would accept the enormous risks this would entail, for Bahrain and the UAE it would be out of the question.

As the Iranian hearings rumble on there is also the question of U.S. sincerity in its decision to grasp the Iranian nettle. If U.S. policy has shifted from Iraq to Iran and back again could it not make one more shuttle? At present the U.S. is trying to reassure its disgruntled Arab friends but this may not remain a priority for long. These doubts are helping to delay what is now the most logical and sensible step — a Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire and arms embargo. Some of the necessary elements for this are there. The U.S. and USSR are now quite close in their views on the Gulf although they both still shrink from overt cooperation. Britain and France would not be obstacles and even China claims that it is really North Korea which is supplying the Silkworms. The truth of this statement is less important than the fact that it was made. But a Security Council resolution would have to have some appearance of even-handedness to avoid rendering Iran even more stubborn. The trouble is that for some years only Iran has been rejecting a ceasefire. But it might be possible to introduce the question of responsibility for starting the war. The Iraqis have said that they are quite prepared to put their case on this point. The time has come to put this to the test — Middle East International, London.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Shultz' State Department

OBSERVERS of American policies can easily discover that the U.S. State Department under George Shultz has not achieved any real successes. They can also see that the defiance and arrogance and shortsightedness have continued to characterise America's policies under Shultz. The setbacks which the Reagan administration has been dealt over the past years on the domestic front gave the State Department a free hand to handle all aspects of foreign policy in a manner that does not lend any regard to the reaction of world public opinion. Such instance of America's foreign policy can be seen in the latest State Department statement which regarded the Soviet Union as an unqualified party to take part in the proposed Middle East peace conference. Of course the international community scoffs at such statement, but we have to point to this shortsightedness on the part of a superpower like the United States and its harmful consequences on international relations. It should be said that no lasting peace, stability or security can be achieved if they are to be worked out in harmony with the policies of the State Department in Washington which supports injustice and aggression and also hegemony on other nations. If Washington does not want the Palestinians, China and the Soviet Union to attend the conference, nor does it want a European role in such an affair there will be no conference which can achieve peace.

Al Dustour: Campaigning for peace or elections?

ISRAELI Foreign Minister Shimon Peres's current tour of European capitals is aimed at promoting the Israeli-version of an international peace conference, one that is considered naive; and a ridiculous attempt to peddle the ideas of the Israeli Labour Party. Peres has not been able to persuade the Likud bloc, Labour's partner in the present coalition government, with his ideas and has not been able to call for a general election in Israel to determine this issue. The countries that Peres is visiting have all declared support for an international conference to achieve peace between Israel and the Arab countries, and these countries do not obstruct efforts for peace and do not adopt an intransigent position similar to that of Israel in this respect. If any campaign is to be launched to enlist support for the conference it should be held inside Israel which continues to obstruct peace efforts. Therefore, Peres is representing no more than himself in his current tour, and according to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Peres's ideas carry no official government view. In fact, Peres is obsessed with the idea of presenting himself as a caller for peace and so he undertook the European tour and is pursuing his aimless talks with European leaders. We believe that European government leaders would not be taken in by any ideas which Israel is now presenting to them; and we consider the Brussels declaration as a general framework for Europe's policies regarding the situation in the Middle East.

Muslims, Arabs and 'The Dingo Principle'

By Dr. Ibrahim Ata



The above is part of an advertisement for an Australian mini-series TV programme.

The writer, a lecturer of social sciences at Australian universities, is the author of several books and articles on Arab and Muslim immigrants to Australia. He often contributes to the Jordan Times.

"THE Dingo Principle's" recent portrayal of Muslims, and particularly the Ayatollah, is not merely an example of hard hitting Australian satire but a symptom of a body of theory and practice which is unfortunately far too prevalent in the Western media when it deals with Muslims and Arabs.

The web of racism, socio-cultural stereotyping, and dehumanising ideology against both Muslims and Arabs remains strong, and its expression is rarely subtle.

Among things that "The Dingo Principle" failed to note is that whatever the excesses of the Iranian regime today, the regime before Khomeini was far more systematically oppressive. The excesses of the Savak, the Shah's secret police, were rarely reported with the same kind of details. Having said that, one is alarmed at many things that are still occurring in that country. The depiction of Khomeini might not be offensive in itself if it is seen in the context of satirical tradition, but the frustration of

Arabs and Muslims with such portrayals is understandable. Often it must seem to them that narrow, bigoted interpretations of their way of life are the only ones made available to Westerners by the media.

In a recent survey with a colleague (at Hawthorn Institute) of 400 year - 12 students in 28 schools in Victoria a sizable portion (56.1 per cent) noted that their main source of information concerning Muslims and Arabs is television and films. This is quite depressing for a number of reasons, but primarily as television has become such an effective arbiter of right and wrong. It has also become both the judge and the jury of what does or does not appeal to the average Australian. During the past five years numerous films which have depicted typical anti-Muslims and anti-Arab stereotypes have proliferated in Australia's commercial cinemas and on TV channels.

Such recent films as "Protocol," "Jewel of the Nile," "Never Say Never Again," "Boleyn," "Best Defence," "Sahara," "Cannonball II," "The Ambassador," St. Emo's Fire," "Iron Ball," and "Delta Force" are only a few of those which depict Muslims and Arabs as lecherous, terrorists, lazy, primitive, corrupt, evil or

prescribed for various sexual offences and is deliberately designed to cause pain before death — by law the stones used must not be too large in case the person dies after being hit by one or two of them."

Whilst all this may be true, the Western press astoundingly failed to report that the Savak was responsible for 60,000 deaths in 1978. When an Australian female traveller who was raped during the same year by a Savak member complained to the police she was told that she has the "right" to marry the rapist or simply get out of the country.

Not only was "The Dingo Principle" in poor taste, it was marred by ignorance, racism, hostility and myopic thinking. It was an

Soviets extend influence in Gulf, Middle East

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

turned to Western Europe and the Soviet union for their hardware.

Many Western analysts believe that the balance of influence in the region is moving inexorably in the Soviets' favour.

U.S. senator Daniel Moynihan said of Soviet encroachment: "The great geopolitical prize of the 20th century is now within their grasp."

In recent months, Moscow has scored several significant gains:

— The Soviets played a key role in reuniting Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation with Syrian-backed radicals and in pressing Syrian President Hafez Assad to reconcile with Arafat, ending a four-year split.

— The Soviets, along with Saudi Arabia and Jordan, are the driving force behind renewed efforts to reconcile President Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, two of Moscow's main Arab friends. The nine-year rift is blocking a long-delayed Arab summit.

— Moscow has patched up relations with Egypt, once its closest Arab ally and lately a key U.S. friend, 15 years after the late President Anwar Sadat threw the Soviets out. Moscow has rescheduled a \$3 billion debt on easy terms, while the Americans still are haggling with Cairo over a \$4.5 billion military debt.

— Moscow quickly moved to help Kuwait protect its shipping in the Gulf war, leasing it three tankers, after the Emirate requested superpower assistance. U.S. moves to reflag Kuwaiti tankers under the stars and stripes have been delayed because

Now some Arab states have

cause of congressional opposition, further undermining Arab confidence in Washington.

— The Soviets have in the last 18 months opened diplomatic relations with Oman and the United Arab Emirates in the Gulf.

Diplomats in the Gulf believe it is only a matter of time before Moscow establishes links with Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar. It has long had relations with Kuwait.

For the last 50 years, the theocratic Saudis, guardians of Islam's holiest shrines, have denounced the Soviet system, which officially preaches atheism, as the enemy of all Muslims.

More recently, the Saudis have condemned the Soviet invasion of Muslim Afghanistan. But that criticism has become more muted amid Soviet assertions that it wants to leave Afghanistan.

King Fahd's eldest son, Prince Faisal, and Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer have visited Moscow.

Senior Soviet officials have been criss-crossing the Arab World in recent months in an ever-increasing diplomatic drive by the Kremlin.

Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky said during a Gulf tour in April that the region is of "paramount political importance to the foreign policy of the Soviet Union, which endeavours to develop relations with all states in the region."

The Soviets have long viewed the Gulf as strategic to their interests, paying special attention to Iran.

The Gulf has largely been insulated from Soviet influence since

World War II, and the Soviets have sought for decades to break the Western monopoly of influence in the region.

The Gulf assumed even greater importance for the Soviet Union, the world's largest oil producer, because Moscow is expected to become an importer of oil by the end of the century.

Despite Iranian criticism of the Soviet Union, Moscow has fared better than the United States in improving relations with Tehran.

The Soviets, by keeping their naval presence in the Gulf to a minimum, have kept their options open with Tehran while the Americans have moved into confrontation with the Islamic republic.

"We don't believe the Russians are following the American experience very closely," Iran's official news agency quoted a foreign ministry official in Tehran as saying recently.

"We believe the Soviets are more pragmatic than the Americans, who have tested their involvement in the region and received blows from the militant Muslim people."

Militarily, the Soviet navy's Pacific fleet, whose zone of operations includes the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the Gulf, has been built up with aircraft carriers, missile cruisers and submarines.

These give it a qualitative edge in some classes of warship over the U.S. navy in the region.

The Soviet fleet is limited by a lack of land bases. But it remains a powerful force in an area where the oil lifelines of the West and Japan are vulnerable.

YOUR weekly Saturday review of JTV's foreign programmes is a greatly appreciated service by all viewers. However, the inclusion of an addendum to complement this review would, I presume, render it more interesting and useful.

Allow me, in this regard, to suggest that you start introducing, with the cooperation of JTV, a rating system for the different programmes, or at least for films, best-sellers, and plays.

The rating process may be carried out by grading or placing symbols next to the programmes' titles in the form of stars, figures, or any other appropriate signs. Therefore, the more stars a programme gets the better it must be. Thus, the viewers will get a hint on the quality of the imposed programmes, and consequently be able to choose the ones that most satisfy their tastes and intellects, and disregard the less rewarding.

The following is an example of a suggested rating pattern (using asterisks):

Rating symbol	Chances
*****	Not to be missed
****	Highly recommended
***	Pleasantly entertaining
**	Optional due mediocrity
*	Waste of time

The prerequisites to such a rating system are the "objective" consideration of the following:

- The quality of production.
- The story or subject matter.
- The acting.
- The filming quality and techniques.
- The music.
- Other factors the viewers deem important.

Finally, a further relevant suggestion would be to ask The Jordan Times to launch, from time to time on its pages, questionnaires requesting the readers' appraisals of the rating process. The feedback received would undoubtedly reflect their agreement or disagreement with the rating's standard and accuracy, and will help its future improvement.

I trust that the above proposals will be met with your kind attention, and look forward to their early implementation.

Samir A. Carmi
P.O. Box 554
Amman

Israeli military solicits contributions

By Adam Tanner
Reuter

give additional contributions. "Of course it's very difficult to raise money, but I have to say there's another attitude when it comes to soldiers," said Chaim Lifshitz of the Association for the Welfare of Soldiers in Israel (AWSI).

Lifshitz said his group raised about \$15 million dollars last year.

Libi collects only within Israel, occasionally attracting donations from American and other tourists.

AWSI receives about 20 per cent of its fund from Europe and

North America, Lifshitz said.

Not all the fundraising efforts reach their target. The two associations accidentally sent a joint appeal last April to 900,000 Palestinian refugees in the West Bank who have endured Israeli military occupation for 20 years.

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Europeans plan to standardise mobile telephone systems

By Ralf Gunther Munchow

STUTTGART — Many sales representatives have a mobile telephone. If they want to make a call, they just pull it to the side of the road and use their pressbutton keypad.

But the moment they cross into another country, contact fades. This is soon to change. From 1991, 15 European postal services plan to operate a uniform digital mobile phone network.

By then an estimated 10 million European subscribers, including two million West Germans, will be able to communicate by car or mobile phone (cellular phones) via the new D (for digital) network.

The service is to be provided at a price the man in the street can afford — as opposed to the DM 10,000 or so mobile phones now cost.

In a few years' time the investment is expected to be a mere DM 3,000 and pundits feel DM 2,000 will be well within reach (which is what the most inexpensive video recorder cost not long ago).

A go-ahead was given recently when the West German Posts and Telecom Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling talked with his British, French and Italian counterparts in Bonn.

He announced after the meeting that agreement had been reached on a joint approach to the digital mobile phone network.

The terms agreed were a compromise, and not one that was easily arrived at, with France and Germany of all countries baulking at agreeing to proposals submitted by a majority of European Postal Union (CEPT) countries.

Two schools of thought — wide or narrow hand — were long at loggerheads, with an open clash occurring at a CEPT conference in Madeira at the end of February.

Narrow hand technology is simpler and less expensive, whereas wide hand technology, although more expensive, seems likelier to ensure higher-quality transmission.

After protracted debate on regulations and standards 13 of the 15 CEPT member-countries

the Duke of Windsor, membership of exclusive clubs and his string of racehorses.

He married the former Phyllis Potter, a wealthy New York socialite, and opened Fred Astaire Dancing Studios in many countries. An intensely private person off screen, he seldom ventured outside his circle of friends.

In 1945, at the age of 46, Astaire announced his retirement from the screen, but came back three years later to make one of his most famous films, "Easter Parade" with Judy Garland. He explained he had felt guilty about being idle.

The following year he received a special Oscar for his "unique artistry" and his contribution to film.

In his fifties, Astaire starred with Cyd Charisse in "Silk Stockings", with Leslie Caron in "Daddy Longlegs" and with Audrey Hepburn in "Funny Face".

In 1958, he starred in "An Evening With Fred Astaire," with a then unknown dancer, Barrie Chase, and the show won the biggest audience for any U.S. television show up to that time. The show also won nine television Emmy awards.

Ten years later, Astaire finally retired as a dancer although he danced briefly in the film "That's Entertainment, Part 2," in 1976, when he was 77. "I didn't want to be the oldest dancer in captivity," he said.

He always refused to name his favourite dancing partner but he said Chase was one of the best.

Ginger was a great personalty. She may have faded a little but we had a great thing going," he said. "Rita Hayworth and Cyd Charisse were probably a little tall for me."

He was five feet nine inches tall (175 cm.).

"I was cold-blooded about dancing," Astaire said. "I wanted it to be good, and then I wanted it to be better."

His wife, Phyllis, died in 1954 after a marriage lasting 21 years. They had two children — Fred, a rancher, and Ava, who lives in Ireland, and a stepson, Peter Potter, a sheriff.

He won wide praise for a television role as an elderly house-painter trundled off to a nursing home in "The Family Upside Down" with Helen Hayes, and was nominated for an Oscar for his role in the film "The Towering Inferno" — a nomination he never received as a dancer.

In 1980, when he was 81, Astaire married a jockey, Robyn Smith, who at 35 was 46 years his junior.

Alone, Astaire starred in "The Gay Divorcee," which won him his first Hollywood offer — a featured role with Ginger Rogers in "Flying Down to Rio."

An earlier film test had produced this report on Astaire: "Can't act. Slightly bald. Can dance a little."

The teaming of Astaire and Rogers produced the most famous dancing partnership in screen history. They made nine films together, including "Follow the Fleet," "Shall We Dance," "Swingtime" and "Roberta," and earned more than \$30 million in box office receipts at a time of low income tax.

Their musical "Top Hat," now considered a classic, took only six weeks to make and cost just \$620,000. The words of the song... "Putting on My Top Hat..." became the unofficial trademark for Astaire.

He accepted the good life in full — his mansion in Beverly Hills overlooking Hollywood, his staff of servants, his friends with the former Prince of Wales, later

scenes it was clear that Bonn was on the point of breaking ranks and siding with the narrow hand majority.

The French government felt unable to follow suit without further ado; that would mean losing face. So a political compromise had to pave the way to agreement.

At the beginning of April the French proposed — still behind the scenes — adopting the European standard narrow band system devised by Alcatel, a French company.

As a further sop to French prestige Paris made its approval subject to the proviso that part of the wide hand system was laid on as an extra to the narrow hand system.

Bonn endorsed this strategy, assured of the approval of Britain and Italy (both narrow hand supporters) and brought pressure to bear on the others.

The CEPT countries seem likely to accept the compromise worked out by the Big Four, with a final decision due to be reached in Brussels between 9 and 12 June.

Agreement on the basis of the compromise proposal would be felt all concerned.

First, it would set up a common market with an estimated annual turnover of between DM 15m and DM 30m. Second, Europe would from 1991 boast the world's most advanced mobile phone system.

Last but not least, the narrow hand frequencies fit more easily than a wide hand system into the gaps between existing radio services left by postal administrations.

A handy portable cordless radio telephone from Europe could go on to become a world

bestseller.

The most serious technical problem seems sure to be the system's liability to break down — a problem subscribers to the C network, launched a year ago, are only too familiar with.

Car phone calls are often interrupted when either too many calls overburden the system of tall buildings block the radio waves in built-up areas.

Sigals can then be superimposed on calls or distort them. In Austria and Switzerland the mountains add to the problem.

In the analog C network the Bundespost hopes to solve this problem by means of more transceiver stations. Filters are planned to ensure "clean" speech and data transmission via the digital D network.

When the C network was launched on May 1, 1986 a backlog of 11,000 applications for a mobile

phone awaiting processing. Just over a year later about 30,000 subscribers use the C network even though equipment and installation costs roughly DM 10,000.

The Bundespost expects the C network's capacity to be exhausted by the end of the decade. It will then number 280,000 car phone subscribers.

The B network, in operation since the early 1970s, has long run at full capacity. It can handle only 27,000 subscribers.

Scandinavians are the keenest car phone-users at present. One car in 27 in Denmark, Norway and Sweden has a mobile phone.

Demand is brisk in less industrialised countries outside Europe, such as Saudi Arabia, with 10,000 car phones.

Mexico plans to set up a system for operation in Mexico City.

— Stuttgarter Zeitung.

Randa Habib's

Combatting AIDS

AIDS, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is not a problem in Jordan. But still, the virus is out there in the world and we can't just ignore it, as if we are not part of that world.

It is very important that we recognise that AIDS is a serious threat to people's health and to humanity at large. For that we should find the ways to prevent this virus from propagating in our country. I don't mean that we should get hysterical about it, but we should not just ignore it altogether.

I think it would be wise to create a committee that would identify the possible means that would "bring" the disease into the country and propose general guidelines to prevent that. This committee should not only comprise doctors, as AIDS is not only a medical problem, but also a social one. A good informative campaign addressed especially to citizens travelling to infected countries and to students planning to study abroad, must be launched. People must know everything that is already internationally known about the risks of getting the disease.

Acting as though we are unfeeling will never protect us. It is true that we do not have a problem of drug addiction in Jordan, and that sexual behaviour is dictated by a deep sense of the family life. But once again, we are not a country cut off from the world and we have the duty of dealing very seriously with this deadly disease.

First kisses, stolen kisses and old kissing games

By Marilyn August

The Associated Press

rious business. So serious, that a university professor and journalist have written a 294-page book on the subject.

PARIS — Bjorn Borg did it on the Wimbledon centre court. Cary Grant and Ingrid Bergman did it on the silver screen. French people seem to be doing it everywhere all the time.

Kissing his trophy showed the cool Swede's joy in his tennis victory, and the Grant-Bergman embrace, in Alfred Hitchcock's "Notorious," ranks among the longest and most passionate kisses ever filmed. But for the French, the kiss is simply a way to say hello and goodbye.

In a country where greeting a roomful of people can take five minutes by the time everyone's cheeks get pecked, kissing is se-

volved deep tongue kissing between at least 10 or more couples who changed partners weekly. In some parts of France, the "tongue duelling," which often led further, took place outdoors, behind colourful parasols stuck into the ground, which the authors described as "intimacy in public, outdoors."

In other regions, Marachinage took place only in church, with couples sitting opposite each other on narrow benches. Clergy men hanned the practice in 1864.

Despite its suggestive title, much *Le Baiser* reads like a doctoral thesis, with long chapters on kissing in sculpture, painting, opera and on the silver screen.

Held only on Sundays, it in-

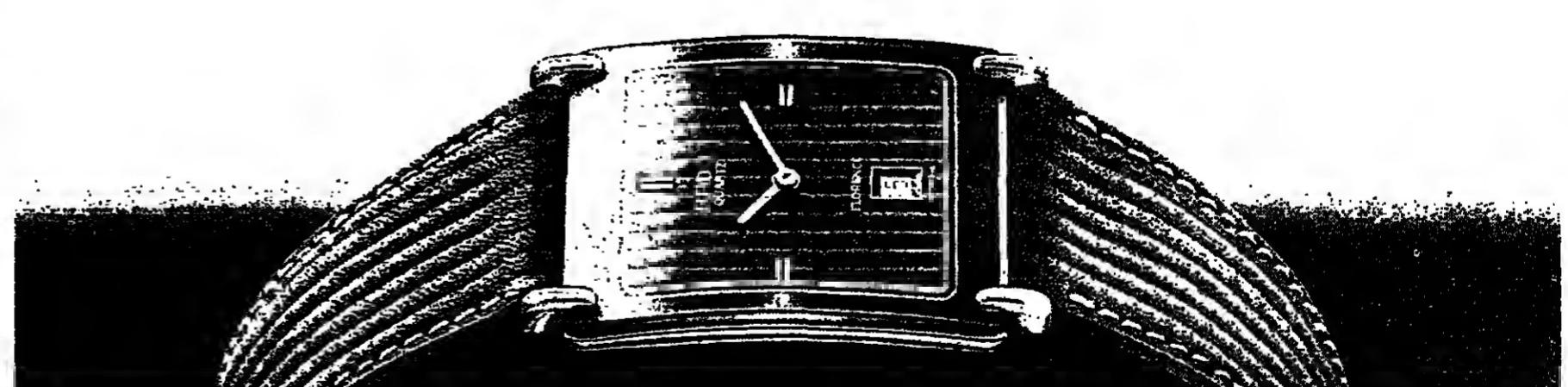
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Navratilova, Graf advance at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Martina Navratilova began her quest for a record sixth consecutive Wimbledon title and an end to a disappointing year in quick fashion Wednesday, taking just 32 minutes to defeat Claudia Porwik of West Germany 6-1, 6-0.

Second-seeded Steffi Graf of West Germany, fresh from beating Navratilova for her first Grand Slam title in the French Open, breezed into the second round as well, defeating Adriana Villagrana of Argentina 6-0, 6-2. Graf won the last five games after trailing 2-1 in the second set.

Also winning easily were Heleena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, the women's fourth seed, who defeated Jo Louis of Britain 6-1, 6-4, fifth-seeded Pam Shriver of the United States, who downed Natalia Medvedeva of the Soviet Union 6-2, 6-1, ninth-seeded Bettina Bunge of West Germany, who beat Claire Wood of Britain 6-3, 6-1, number 11 Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden, who beat Kathy Jordan of the United States 6-2, 6-2, number 12 Wendy Turnbull of Australia, who downed Debbie Spence of the United States 6-4, 6-2, and number 15 Raffaella Reggi of Italy, a 6-4, 6-2 winner over America's Beverly Bowes.

Among the men's seed were three American winners. Number 7 Jimmy Connors beat Marty

Davis of the United States 6-1, 7-6, 7-6. Tenth seed Tim Mayotte beat Jean Fleurian of France 6-2, 6-3, 6-3. And number 15 David Pate beat Sergio Casal of Spain 6-4, 7-6, 7-5.



MAKING SURE: Al Ahli's striker, Nart Yagde (right), scores a goal as Al Baqa'a's goalkeeper, Fathi Abu Dan, watches helplessly. Al Ahli went on to win the match 4-0 against Al Baqa'a in a Premier League match held in Amman Stadium on Wednesday (Photo by Abdallah Ayoub)

Inter beats Barcelona in Mundialito tourney

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Despite the absence of several key players, Internazionale of Milan beat Spain's Barcelona 3-1 Tuesday night in the second round of the "Mundialito" Soccer Tournament for clubs.

The victory gave the Italian

team three points after two matches in the five-team, Round-Robin competition. Barcelona, which was playing its first match at the Meazza Stadium, was left with zero points.

All goals were scored in the first half.

Argentine defender Daniel Passarella gave Inter a 1-0 lead in the 13th minute, and right winger Pietro Fanna made it 2-0 in the 16th on a fast counter-attack.

British centerforward Mark Hughes reduced the gap in a melee two minutes later but Inter, cheered on by 50,000 fans, struck again in the 33rd minute on a header by left winger Oliviero Garlini.

Barcelona, which just completed the grueling Spanish League in which it finished second to Real Madrid, attacked throughout the second half but

never seriously threatened Asturillo Malgoglio, a substitute for number 1 Inter goalie Walter Zenga.

Barcelona badly missed the services of its English striker Gary Lineker, who was benched following a leg injury.

Lineker was expected to play the third round of matches Thursday night when Barcelona faces France's Paris Saint Germain.

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Japanese foe wants British champ to have AIDS test

LONDON (AP) — Akio Kameda called Wednesday for IBF welterweight champion Terry Marsh to be tested for AIDS before their bout next week.

Kameda, from Japan, said he must undergo a test for the virus as part of British rules for foreign fighters and Marsh, a suburban London fireman, should do the same.

"AIDS is an international problem," Kameda said. "In Japan, every fighter takes a test, and I think it should be the same here."

The challenger said he was

especially worried because of Marsh's reputation as a boxer who bleeds easily.

AIDS, or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, is a virus that attacks the body's immune system, leaving the victim vulnerable to disease. No cure for the virus, which is spread through the exchange of some bodily fluids including blood, has been found.

Marsh said he would not take the AIDS test, saying it would break the rhythm of his preparations for the July 1 bout.

S. African heavyweight stops American 'Quick'

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Undefeated South African heavyweight Johnny Du Plessis scored a technical knockout over American veteran James "Quick" Tillis in the 10th and final round of their bout Tuesday night.

Du Plessis, now 14-0, floored Tillis with a right and continued landing punches after the American got up until the referee halted the fight with 22 seconds

Local sportswriters said in their accounts of the fight that it appeared Tillis was leading on points going into the final round and suddenly seemed to lose his defensive skills. Similar criticisms were made following Du Plessis' previous victory over American David Bey.

THE Daily Crossword

by Donald B. Grant

ACROSS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
1	Flying insect	2	Palindromic title	3	Luxurious	4	Pining nymph	5	Steep pot	6	Plant axis	7	Shorthorn	8	Follow secretly	9	Christopher Reeve movie	10	Atticisms	11	Consideration	12	Fraud	13	Love it, style	14	Variable stars	15	Nonsense	16	Intellect	17	Surfines	18	Victoria for one	19	Rubber tree	20	Ascended	21	Factions	22	Mambas	23	Pulissant	24	Foothill	25	Plat	26	Ronald	27	Reagan movie	28	Paragon	29	Practitioner	30	Consideration	31	Fraud	32	Love it, style	33	Victoria for one	34	Rubber tree	35	Ascended	36	Factions	37	Mambas	38	Pulissant	39	Foothill	40	Plat	4																				

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6090/6100	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3330/40	Canadian dollar
1.8215/25		West German marks
2.0505/15		Dutch guilders
1.5090/100		Swiss francs
37.76/79		Belgian francs
6.0820/50		French francs
1317/1318		Italian lira
144.70/80		Japanese yen
6.3525/75		Swedish crown
6.6800/50		Norwegian crowns
6.8500/50		Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	442.90/443.40	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities were firm in late trading, but light, persistent profit-taking after the lower Wall Street opening saw the majority of prices off their best levels, dealers said.

Early demand was centred on leading issues, with firmer sterling and a belief that recent declines were overdone providing the early impetus. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 15.0 at 2,280.5 after touching a high of 2,292.4 earlier.

Dealers said the pace of the early advance indicated strong demand from institutional investors, but many noted retail interest and more overseas buying than of late.

One dealer said he believed that the bull market was still intact, and despite the absence of any change in fundamentals, many investors seemed to think the London market was a good buy at current levels.

Others, however, thought that Wednesday afternoon's fall from the earlier highs indicated that the market was close to a peak and will not go very much higher in the short term.

Outstanding among FTSE 100 constituent stocks was Consolidated Goldfields, which jumped 66p to 1,044 amid rumours that it may be planning to pull out of South Africa in the near future.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime is good for getting a new slant on old projects, and finding opportunities for advancement. Home and study matters can be wound up in the evening.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Make visits to find backing for a project you have in mind. Enjoy your family at home this evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Good fortune is available today, so look around. Consult with an elder on how to proceed.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Contact supporters and follow through with your plans. Advice from a clever friend should be taken seriously.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Armed with the facts, you can complete a promise. Concentrate on civic and private matters.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Needed purchases can be made at a new place with a lively friend. Fast talking gets the point across today.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Seen from a different angle, you may want to dump a business matter. Improve your relationship with a friend.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A new contact can give you a real boost toward success. Keep your agreements, but seek our more information.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Hard work finally pays off. Improve your business relations all around by keeping a healthy attitude.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Pay attention to your recreational life, especially where higher-ups are concerned, and do favors if asked today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Choose a new angle in your work to make life easier, and pick up on an old hobby you've always enjoyed.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get organized at home with your correspondence. Repay long-owed social obligations this evening.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Home ties can make your financial situation much brighter. Make only necessary visits in the evening.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be full of life and energy, but will need help in channeling this quality in the right direction. With a very fine education, success could be phenomenal. Your child will be very strongly attached to home and family, bringing much joy there for all.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The new moon gives you a fresh start for plans and arrangements. Stick close to home and family relationships to build your fortune. Follow ideas which seem important.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Put off business and concentrate on the scene at home. A good evening for friendly conversations with guests.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Keep in touch with regular contacts. Don't ignore bills, statements or reports that are vital.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Concentrate on assets and cut down on liabilities by getting bills out of the way. Common sense is needed.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Don't worry about hurt feelings if you want to accomplish anything today. See some of your old friends.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Plan personal activities and speak to your mate about fundamentals. Life can be ideal if you get past these things.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get together with good friends and show them a good time — their way. Make sure your car is running well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Civic activities must be handled, as promised. Completion will make you shine in everyone's eyes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Plan trips for social activities early, and pick up needed information from a newcomer, but be cautious.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Stop procrastinating on fulfilling promises. This will gain you much respect in the long run.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Deal with associates on their own level. It's very important that you drive carefully, especially this evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A co-worker's ideas are very different from your own, but discussing them could yield positive results.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Finish your work before starting recreation. Improving your talents will be extremely beneficial if you use them.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be able to understand and work efficiently on any project by carefully studying every phase of the operation, so don't mistake being thorough for being slow. Many playmates in early life will help tremendously. Expose this child to good books early.

U.S. becomes world's largest debtor nation

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States' foreign debt more than doubled in 1986, prompting comparisons with heavily indebted Latin American countries and warnings about the economic costs of reliance on foreign investment.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday U.S. foreign debt swelled to \$263.3 billion in 1986, up from \$11.9 billion in 1985 — the first year since 1914 that the United States became a debtor nation.

The United States now is the world's largest debtor nation, though it can still finance its deficit in its own currency unlike other large debtors like Brazil and Mexico. Economists say a price eventually must be paid, in inflation or recession, for living beyond its means.

"I continue to be worried that we're drifting into a situation that is not very different from the countries of Latin America," commented Mr. Norman Robertson, chief economist for Mellon Bank in New York.

By the end of the decade, the United States is likely to have foreign debt of \$500 billion that will cost \$40 billion a year to

service through interest payments, Mr. Robertson said.

Increased U.S. indebtedness and reliance on foreign capital means higher debt payment and less money for domestic investment, thus bring on recession.

Similarly, in order to attract foreign investment, the United States must offer higher interest rates, adding to domestic borrowing and financing costs, which boost inflation.

The increased debt is from deficit buying by Americans of products from overseas and also from increased foreign takeovers of American business enterprises — with profits from those businesses flowing out of the country and adding to the deficit.

"We can live with these kinds of debt levels as long as foreign (investors) want to buy U.S. debt," said Mr. Martin Regalia, director of research and economics at the National Council of

Savings Institutions.

"But we don't have control of our own destiny," he added.

Offsetting the gloomy foreign debt news were signs that U.S. inflation slowed in May while orders for expensive durable goods showed strength in the industrial sector.

The key consumer price index rose 0.3 per cent in May — lower than the 0.4 per cent recorded in each of the three preceding months, the Labour Department said. Increases for clothing, transportation and housing were the smallest so far this year.

Orders for expensive durable goods were down by 0.1 per cent last month, falling for the first time in four months. But after subtracting the often volatile defense component, orders posted a 1.4 per cent gain.

Mr. John Hagens, vice president of Warton Economics said the May inflation report pointed to a future levelling off in price rises that should help keep interest rates down.

"This confirms that most of the surge (in prices) in the first quarter was temporary and we're now running at a 3.5 per cent to 4.5 per cent rate," Mr. Hagens said.

In another report, the government said Americans' average weekly earnings, after allowing for inflation, rose 0.4 per cent in May after two successive months in which earnings fell.

Administration officials and economists said the durable goods orders showed health in the manufacturing sector.

"On balance these figures have strengthened appreciably this year after three years of flat performance," Commerce Secretary Malcolm Baldrige said, predicting more increases as the U.S. trade performance with the rest of the world improves.

Together with recent gains in industrial production and capacity use, the figures show beleaguered manufacturing sector is finally reviving thanks to the protracted decline in the dollar over the past 2½ years, economists said.

It cuts next year's estimated federal deficit by \$37 billion to \$134 billion through tax proposals and spending restraints.

Republicans assailed the budget's recommended \$64 billion in new taxes over a three-year period and its reductions from President Reagan's defence requests.

Representative Delbert Latta, an Ohio Republican, called the plan the worst one ever voted on because of an "odious tax hike."

As debate got under way, House Speaker Jim Wright said President Reagan was staging a "phony fight" with Congress over

tax and budget policy to divert attention from the Iran-contra scandal and other problems.

During campaign-type appearances in Florida on Tuesday, President Reagan again vowed to veto any tax bill to implement the Democrat-written budget that calls for \$19 billion in new taxes next year.

"Any tax hike will make it out alive," President Reagan said.

President Reagan's own budget, which also included some \$18 billion in higher revenues — which he refused to call taxes — was rejected by Republicans and Democratic majorities of both Senate and House.

Last week, a conference committee dominated by Democrats approved the compromise trillion-dollar spending plan with a \$134 billion deficit — down from the estimated \$171 billion expected to occur otherwise in 1988.

The budget also cuts President Reagan's request for \$312 billion. Spending authority is similar to a line of credit, with actual military spending under the bill expected to be about \$290 billion.

S. Arabia licences new bank

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A company that grew to over \$4 billion from the exchange of foreign currency in Saudi Arabia was converted Tuesday into a full-fledged bank.

The Al Rajhi Co. for Currency Exchange and Commerce, started decades ago by two brothers who sent gold bars to each other via strangers on the Saudi national airline, is one of the largest financial institutions in the oil-rich kingdom.

Although the firm took deposits, wrote checks, and handled investments, it was never permitted to become a bank. The Saudi council of ministers this week finally approved Al Rajhi going public by floating shares, and then becoming a genuine bank.

Financial experts said it may rank after Riyad Bank as the third best bank in the kingdom.

Minister of information, Sheikh Ali Al Shaer announced the government approval after the weekly cabinet meeting late Monday, saying the 16.6-billion-riyal (\$4.42 billion) Al Rajhi will go public.

The firm is now owned by four brothers, and the announcement of the change had been expected since 1983. Since the firm already took interest-free deposits and could perform most bank functions, the only banking power it lacked was making loans.

The company will now spin off its non-banking activities. This includes up to 600 million riyals (\$176 million) worth of real estate holdings, farms, and building materials factories.

Al Rajhi was the biggest money exchanger in the kingdom, probably larger than scores of others put together, according to banking sources.

NCR unveils new product

NEW YORK (R) — NCR Corporation, the computer and business machines firm, Tuesday introduced the first commercial product based on technology developed by a research consortium founded five years ago to compete with Japan.

NCR baited the new product, a computer software programme that assists engineers in the design of computer chips, as proof that research done by the consortium, Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp. (MCC), will help companies remain competitive against Japan.

The software package, "represents the first example that MCC-developed technology is appropriate and needed by its participants," said Mr. James Van Tassel, vice president and general manager of the microprocessor.

The project, sponsored by the Japanese government, brought together Japan's biggest computer companies in an effort to develop a new generation of artificial intelligence computers that could "think" like human beings.

Dollar, after recent gains, takes a dive

LONDON (R) — The dollar, after recent gains, took a dive Wednesday when word came from Bank of Japan sources in Tokyo to the effect that the Japanese central bank thinks it ought not to rise higher.

In Europe's morning it promptly dipped as low as 144.25 Japanese yen after nearly reaching 147 on Tuesday. It was also weaker against the Deutsche mark, while gold reacted by firming \$2.80 to \$443 an ounce at the London morning fix.

The tumble seemed less a reflection of gloomy economic news than a reminder that a U.S. trade deficit

still well over \$12 billion a month did not justify a dollar rise, restored a sense of reality to the market.

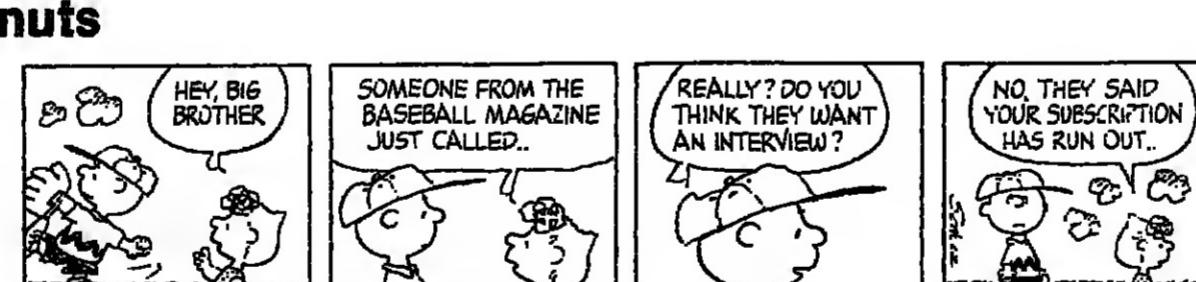
The cautionary note from the Bank of Japan followed market rumours Tuesday night that the Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. central bank, was selling the dollar to stop its appreciating.

The message from the central bank seems to be that the dollar best left around about where it is — which was what was agreed by finance ministers of the big seven industrial nations in their Feb. 22 "Louvre accord."

The banks in April intervened to prop up the dollar when it fell almost to 137 yen. Now they seem to be indicating that, while they favour halting its 40 per cent slide in value since 1985, they do not want too much of a rebound.

Only last week the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development stressed that stable currencies were crucial to business confidence — a key to continued growth in a world which is threatened by recession as the United States struggles to correct its huge deficit by buying fewer goods from abroad.

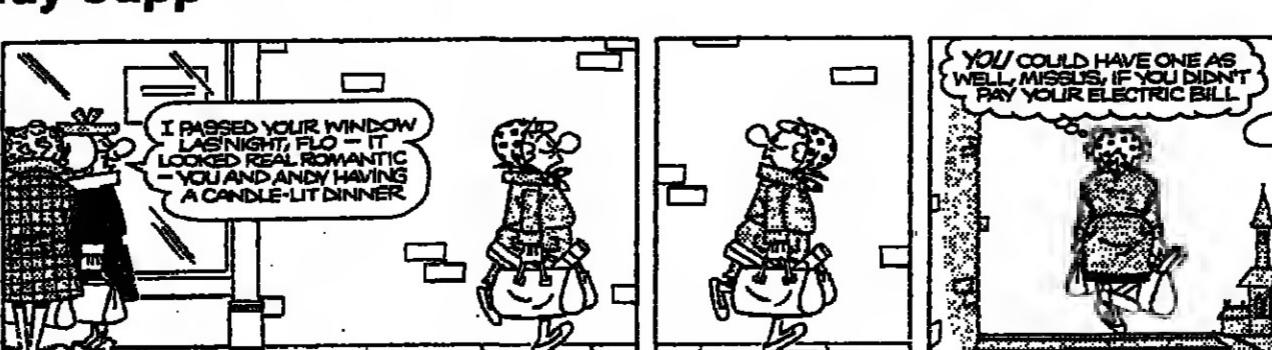
Peanuts



Mutt'n Jeff



Andy Capp



Harare to go ahead with constitutional amendments

Whites to lose separate parliamentary seats

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe is set to enter a new political era after the announcement of government plans for sweeping changes to its British-drafted independence constitution.

President Canaan Banana, opening a new session of parliament Tuesday, said it would consider legislation this year to scrap reserved parliamentary seats for the white minority and introduce an executive presidency and a single-chamber assembly.

Prime Minister Robert Mugabe, who accepted racial representation unwillingly when the constitution was negotiated in London in 1979, is expected to become president when the new laws are passed.

"Banana read himself out of office," commented a black Zimbabwean company executive who declined to be named.

Under the present constitution, Zimbabwe's 100,000 whites were guaranteed 20 seats in the 100-member Lower House of Assem-

bly and a further 10 in the 40-seat Senate.

The separate white representa-

tion could be scrapped by a unanimous vote before seven years or by agreement of at least 70 legislators after that period.

There was speculation that Zimbabwe, which became independent in 1980 after a seven-year guerrilla war for black majority rule, would unilaterally abolish the white seats.

But Mr. Mugabe waited for the seven years to pass before making his move.

Tuesday's announcement had been widely expected after frequent denunciations of the independence constitution by leaders of the ruling ZANU-PF Party.

ZANU-PF (Zimbabwe African National Union/Patriotic Front) has 67 members in the lower house and is certain to get the three extra votes it needs to see through its proposed changes.

Abolition of the Senate, which includes 10 tribal chiefs, is unlikely to be controversial as the chamber has played a mainly ceremonial role.

Composition of the proposed new single-chamber parliament has not been disclosed, but some political commentators predict it will have 140 members — the majority elected by voters, others by the house sitting as an electoral college.

The new executive president is also expected to retain powers to nominate some members of parliament, giving him a constitutional right to dispense political patronage.

The white community, suspicious of the black-led government's commitment to the rule of law, appeared to greet Tuesday's announcement with resignation.

Hawke faces charges of complacency after speech

SYDNEY (R) — Prime Minister Bob Hawke Wednesday faced charges of complacency and warnings that his Labour Party was taking a dangerous course ahead of next month's election by avoiding discussion of the economic problems facing Australia.

Reaction to Mr. Hawke's emotional campaign-speech at the Sydney Opera House Tuesday was divided between a minority who rated it brave and those, including opposition leader John Howard, who said its content was vague and potentially foolish.

Mr. Hawke urged the country's 10.5 million voters to judge his government on its record since coming to power in 1983 and to compare the achievements of his team with the disparity in the opposition Liberal-National Party coalition.

The speech contained one new measure — a financial package for underprivileged families — but noticeably lacked any real clue to the Labour government's intentions if elected for an unprecedented third successive term on July 11.

"The clear message from Labour for Australia is steady as she sinks," said Mr. Howard.

"Look what the 'trust me' policies of the 1983 and 1984 elections have given to Australia — record interest rates, record bankruptcies, record overseas debt."

Mr. Howard accused the media of bias earlier in the campaign because of its fixation with the rifts in his coalition, now patched up, and its unrelenting criticism of the Liberals' tax-cutting policy.

But Mr. Hawke, still well behind Mr. Hawke in opinion polls, could have no complaints Wednesday as Australia's major newspaper united in their first big attack on Mr. Hawke's style of government since the snap election was called on May 27.

Commentators attacked Mr. Hawke's pitch that it would be a patriotic move to vote Labour and labelled as impossible to achieve his claim that the new aid for the low-paid would help ensure that by 1990 no child would be living in poverty.

Mr. Hawke's pitch that it would be a patriotic move to vote Labour and labelled as impossible to achieve his claim that the new aid for the low-paid would help ensure that by 1990 no child would be living in poverty.

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